



NEWSLETTER

for members of the Carolina Bird Club, Inc., ornithological society of the Carolinas

Volume 46

January/February 2000

Number 1

Sale of Property Completed

As 1999 neared a close, the Carolina Bird Club donated a restrictive conservation easement on its property in western North Carolina and sold the property to Robert Shuford of Columbus, N.C. The actions carried out the intent of Option 1, which those CBC members voting approved by an overwhelming margin in a referendum last spring.

The easement provides that the property will forever remain a bird and wildlife sanctuary. CBC negotiated the terms of the easement with Pacolet Land Trust, based in Columbus, N.C., near the property. The easement's provisions were reviewed by Mr. Shuford and his attorney, and minor changes were made at their request.

Mr. Shuford has signed a letter of intent to permit the non-profit Carolina Kids' Conservancy to use about 28 acres of the 83-acre property for nature study and

education. Pacolet will monitor use of the entire property to ensure that the conditions of the easement are maintained. It permits renovation of existing farm buildings for uses consistent with the easement. It forbids removal of timber except as needed to protect visitors or property, and prohibits new construction and any commercial or industrial use of the property.

Registration of the easement and transfer of the deed took place Dec. 20. Sale price was \$80,000, or \$2,000 more than the appraised value of the property with the easement's restrictions in place.

The club's expenses in connection with the sale included \$200 in closing costs, \$300 for the appraisal, and \$568.75 in legal fees.

Attorneys advised the club how to carry out the sale without jeopardizing CBC's tax-exempt status, reviewed the proposed

easement and sale agreement, and represented CBC's interests at the closing.

As the property was a gift to CBC in memory of Robert L. Shuford, first husband of Helen Shuford Brown, proceeds from the sale will be regarded as a memorial gift. The club's by-laws require that memorial gifts be added to the club's permanent, unrestricted endowments. Income from the endowments is spent at the discretion of the CBC Executive Committee.

Mrs. Brown (mother of the purchaser, Robert Shuford) and her husband Robert Brown donated the property to CBC in a series of transactions beginning in 1965. She said she wanted the land maintained as a bird sanctuary and an island of green, but no restrictions were formally placed on CBC's use or disposition of the property. Over the years, some club leaders came to view the property as a financial nest egg, while others in the club wanted to honor the wishes of Mrs. Brown, who died in January 1998. In

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First Student Research Grant Awarded

The Carolina Bird Club has awarded the first "Birds of the Carolinas Student Research Grants" to Kate A. Miskell at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina. The title of Ms. Miskell's project is "Nighttime Orientation of Singing Male Northern Mockingbirds (*Mimus polyglottos polyglottos*) in Relation to Bright Ambient Light Sources." Ms. Miskell is a Master's degree candidate in the Department of Psychology, working with Dr. Michael J. Justice. Her final report will be reviewed for possible publication in *The Chat*.

This award is supported by the Birds of the Carolinas Endowment. A portion of

the royalties from the book *Birds of the Carolinas* was dedicated to this purpose by the authors Eloise Potter, Bob Teulings and Jim Parnell. CBC executive committee members Andrea Ceselski of Irmo, SC, and JoAnn Martin of Ellenboro, NC, were instrumental in the development of guidelines and awarding of this grant.

CBC has authorized the awarding of up to three grants at approximately \$350 each. Students apply through their educational institution. Applications will be accepted in the fall (date to be announced) for 2000-2001 awards.

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CBC Newsletter

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Carolina Bird Club, Inc.

President: Len Pardue, 16 The Circle, Asheville, NC 28801, 828-254-7618, E-mail: eljeep@mindspring.com

Vice Presidents:

Charlotte Goedsche, Asheville, NC
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Van Atkins, Charleston, SC
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Immediate Past President: Bert Fisher, Durham, NC

Editor of *The Chat*: Bob Wood, Columbia, SC

Editor of *CBC Newsletter*: Clyde Smith, 2615 Wells Ave, Raleigh, NC 27608, 919-781-2637, E-mail: Smith82534@aol.com (submit items of interest by the 10th of the first month of publication)

Headquarters Sect: Tullie

Johnson, 11 W Jones St, Raleigh, NC 27601-1029 (submit application for membership, change of address)

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CBC Rare Bird Alert

(704) 332-BIRD

After 22 Years, Newsletter Editor Retires

by Len Pardue
Carolina Bird Club President

After a lengthy and fulsome introduction, the great magazine editor and author Norman Cousins once began a speech by saying: "Now would be a good time to be buried." I come not to bury Clyde Smith, but to lament his passing as editor of the CBC Newsletter. After 22 years on the job, Clyde is retiring.

Having served on the CBC board with Clyde six of the past seven years, I cannot imagine the CBC Newsletter or the CBC Executive Committee without him. He's provided wisdom, good cheer, common sense and institutional memory, commodities vital to CBC's operations. And he has edited a Newsletter that is timely and informative and very often fun in the bargain.

In short, he and his Newsletter have provided much of the glue that holds together an organization like ours, with members sprawled across two wonderful states.

Clyde announced his retirement in an e-mail message to me in mid-November,

right after he completed work on the November/December issue of the Newsletter. He said he still enjoyed editing the Newsletter and thought it was best to give up the job while things were going well. I urged him to reconsider, but he stood firm.

He reported that his wife Laura cheered the news. She's witnessed Clyde dealing with deadline stress six times a year, and was ready for their house to escape that crunch.

He has edited this issue of the Newsletter and will produce one more. We're searching for a successor. If you are interested in discussing the position, or want to recommend a candidate, please contact me.

We'll make an appropriately big fuss over Clyde in a subsequent Newsletter and at a forthcoming meeting. He and Laura have the club's thanks for their many contributions, and our best wishes for good birding in the years to come. We hope to see them often at CBC meetings.

Barber Resigns as Eastern NC Member-at-Large

Because she is moving out of the state, Lynn Barber of Raleigh has resigned as Eastern North Carolina Member-at-Large of the CBC Executive Committee. Her current term expires with the club's spring business meeting, and club by-laws empower the Executive Committee to appoint a successor for the remainder of her term.

Lynn, a patent attorney, is moving with her husband, an United Church of Christ minister, to Ft. Worth, TX, because he has changed churches. She's been a positive force on the board and in the Carolina Bird Club, and we all will miss her. We wish her and her husband the best in their new home. Lynn says she plans to remain a member of CBC and hopes to attend some CBC meetings. I hope we see her often.

The Nominating Committee will put

forward a slate of candidates for the spring election for the following positions:

To one-year terms: President, Secretary, and Treasurer (incumbents Len Pardue of Asheville, N.C., Kathleen O'Grady of Columbia, S.C., and Patricia Tyndall of Wake Forest, N.C., are eligible for reelection).

To a three-year term, South Carolina
(continued on page 5)

CBC Web Site

<http://members.aol.com/cbirdclub>

Jan. 5, 2000. This will be the shortest Backyard Birding on record because I have heard from no one about his/her backyard birds, and ours have been rather indifferent. On Nov. 14, we had a Downy Woodpecker visit the suet early in the morning. Later, about 9:00 a.m., two late-rising goldfinches showed up, but then the feeders were quiet for the rest of the day. This seems rather late for the migratory slump, but I don't know how else to explain it. We saw no hawks hovering nearby, and even the neighbors' cat stayed out of our yard.

The next day, though, was a little better. Five bluebirds set up a command post on our front feeder. It is a regular glass-sided feeder, but CJ attached a platform feeder about six inches beneath it. Two bluebirds were on the top of the regular feeder and three were on the platform feeder, all facing different directions as if they were scouting the area for feeding hot spots. They left one at a time, but they just flew across the street into the trees. These same bluebirds, I guess, hang around the area most of the time. On Dec. 11 two of them were on the back deck near the suet feeder. One looked as if he had suet on his beak. As I watched, one flew off and

Backyard Birding

with Frances J. Nelson

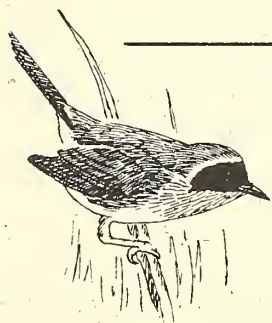


the other one fluttered near the suet. He finally landed on one of the bottom corners, and awkwardly clutching the edge, he scooped up a beak full of suet and flew off. That's the first time we've seen bluebirds eat suet from a feeder, so now we make sure we have plenty of peanut suet around.

On Nov. 23, CJ saw a Chipping Sparrow with too much white on it. He decided it was a partially albino bird and has not seen it again. He also saw a female Purple Finch on the feeder on Nov. 28, but no males or other females have visited our feeders since. On the twenty-ninth, as I drove to work, I passed the backyard pond of someone who lives on Hwy. 56 and saw a Bufflehead--the first one of this season. I haven't seen any since then, but I check every morning.

For the new year, century, millennium, we have not been at home. In fact, I am writing this from Little Rock, Arkansas, as we return from a Christmas visit to CJ's family in Oklahoma. From my sister-in-law's yard in OK, I watched Blue Jays chase one another, crows play in the trees and egrets fly overhead. The egrets are some of the things I look forward to in Oklahoma. Unfortunately, the Scissor-tailed Flycatchers were gone for the winter, but we'll see them next summer.

Thus ends Backyard Birding. Have a happy new year and make resolutions to send your backyard birding news to me at 2061 Ferbow Street, Creedmoor, NC 27522; (919) 528-1156; cjfn@aol.com.



Chip Notes

New Hummingbird Bander

It's official! Susan Campbell of Whispering Pines, NC, received her hummingbird banding license early in November 1999. After an apprenticeship with Bob and Martha Sargent, Susan is now eagerly banding North and South Carolina hummers on her own. Report winter hummingbirds to Susan at (919) 949-3207 or ncaves@utinet.net.

Susan has already banded a total of 19 birds with two of them recaptures of birds

banded previously by the Sargents. She will be giving a complete rundown of activities for the winter of 1999-2000 in a future newsletter after the season is over.

Operation Rubythroat

While we are thinking about hummingbirds, now is a good time to check out the Operation Rubythroat Website at <http://www.rubythroat.org>. Bill Hilton, Jr. of the Hilton Pond Center for Piedmont Natural History, York, SC, hopes that you will let teachers in the Carolinas know about the benefits of linking up with this project.

Winter Pelagic Trips

Brian Patteson is seeking a few more participants for the winter pelagic trips which he is running off the North Carolina coast from Wanchese and Hatteras.

The Wanchese trip is Saturday, February 5 with a Sunday weather date. The Hatteras trip on the Miss Hatteras will be Tuesday, February 22 with a Wednesday weather date. The cost for each trip is \$85 per person.

In past years, these trips have been good for Great Shuas and alcids. For more information on these trips including trip lists from 29 previous winter trips, visit Brian's Website at <http://www.patteson.com> or call him at (252) 986-1363.

More Pelagics

For the year 2000, Mike Tove is trying for something "new and different." He has reserved the Country Girl May 27, 28 and 29 and will be offering trips extended by a couple of hours each day. Those who register by March 1 will get a rate of \$95 per trip. Contact Mike by e-mail at mtove@nissan.net or call (919) 460-0338.

Bullhead Mountain Project

A Joint Venture of The Conservation Trust for NC and Blue Ridge Rural Land Trust

The Importance of the Marietta Stokes and Kimball Lawrence Tracts On

Bullhead Mountain, Alleghany Co., N.C.

The Stokes tract of 202.7 acres and the adjacent Lawrence lots, which, in aggregate, cover 16.9 acres, lie along the narrow ridgeline of Bullhead Mountain, from approximately 3600 feet elevation to 3900 feet elevation. This is a rather narrow tract of land that is in excess of one mile in length, and is visible from the Blue Ridge Parkway from MP 232 to MP 234.5. The tract is extremely steep and rocky, and is covered by older dry site hardwoods. A small area on the southern flank of the property was cleared at some time in the last century, but abandoned to regrowth of hardwood approximately 40 years ago. There is no evidence of recent logging. A private deeded road accesses the tract across the Chester Bar Ranch, Inc. property from Allison Lane and Chester Bar Road from its intersection with the Blue Ridge Parkway. The tract is contiguous in the southeast to National Park Service property and to the Blue Ridge Parkway Corridor, and in the southwest to two small privately held undeveloped tracts. There is no adjacent development to the north, northeast, west, or south. To the southeast there is some low-density development, none of which is visible from the ridge. Bullhead Mountain is drained by a number of small streams flowing into Glade Creek to the north and Little Glade Creek to the northeast, which flow into the Little River, then the New River, and to the southwest by Bullhead Creek, which flows to Longbottom Creek, thence to the Yadkin River.

The ridgeline of Bullhead Mountain is important for three reasons, involving the Blue Ridge Parkway, ornithology, and local history.

- First should be the importance of such a visible landmark to the Blue Ridge Parkway and Stone Mountain State

Park. The view from the BRP from MP 232 to MP 234.5 would be significantly degraded by intensive development along the ridgeline of Bullhead Mountain, as would be the view of the Blue Ridge Escarpment from Stone Mountain State Park. Visual analysis by Parkway staff and volunteers in 1998 identified the view of the north face of Bullhead Mountain that northbound Parkway travelers have at MP 234.5 to be especially important.

- Secondly, Bullhead Mountain has the potential to become one of the premier hawkwatching sites in eastern North America, due primarily to its topography and the formation of updrafts along its long NE-SW ridge with the wind from any direction. The long established nearby Mahogany Rock Hawkwatch site (BRP MP 235) has twice eclipsed Hawk Mountain in Pennsylvania in numbers and was established because of the concentrations of birds coming off Bullhead one mile to its northeast. A developed hawkwatch site on Bullhead, being 600 feet higher and with 360-degree views, would be infinitely superior. Though we in the local ornithological community were unable to spend much time on Bullhead in the 1999 hawk migration season, due to the need to keep continuous coverage at Mahogany Rock, difficulty of access, and schedule conflicts; several factors have emerged concerning Bullhead as a Hawkwatch site. At this writing, the numbers of birds per hour seen at Bullhead is comparable to that of Mahogany Rock, though the sample is small. The primary difference between the sites is the far greater number of birds at Bullhead that are observed at a range of only a few hundred feet, and with many below eye level. It is far more rewarding to observe hawks at distances at which one can actually see field marks,

rather than attempting to identify specks at the limit of resolution, if not conjecture, of 10X binoculars. Bullhead Mountain stands somewhat to the west of the Blue Ridge escarpment, which in the Roaring Gap area forms an "oxbow". If, as I suspect, migrating hawks moving south along the escarpment attempt to "cut the corner" and leave the escarpment south of Cumberland Knob they would find their first dependable updrafts on the slopes of Bullhead. Thus the birds would be consistently coming to Bullhead from the northeast at fairly low altitude and forming kettles very close to the NE summit, spiraling up, then gliding along the ridge to the southeast towards Mahogany Rock and the escarpment. This behavior we have witnessed often. A hawkwatch site at Bullhead Mountain appears to not only have birds visible at lower altitudes, but from a more predictable direction.

Bullhead Mountain also harbors both New England cottontail rabbits and timber rattlesnakes, both of which are threatened species in North Carolina.

Further, this tract on Bullhead is the "high ground" in a remarkable contiguous corridor of land in large, relatively unbroken ownership patterns that can be expected to remain relatively undeveloped through the foreseeable future. The BRP corridor, Cumberland Knob, Doughton Park, Stone Mountain State Park, Thurmond Chatham Gamelands, the Reynolds estate "Devotion", and other private timberlands form a roughly five-mile by 30 mile block of relatively intact woodlands that will be increasingly important as a migratory corridor over the next century as development continues in the piedmont and in the mountain plateau. This area is

(continued on next page)

Bullhead Mountain (continued)

identified as a National Audubon Society Important Bird Area at present, and the crest of Bullhead in friendly hands would only make this entire area more important.

- Thirdly, Bullhead Mountain, being the most prominent feature on the skyline in eastern Alleghany Co. and northern Wilkes Co., is highly regarded by the long-term residents of both counties. Many local residents, who are not likely to be involved in environmental causes otherwise, have expressed revulsion at the thought of the summit of Bullhead being developed for the benefit of "outsiders", and of having to look at "chalets and A-frames occupied by "furriners"" on their beloved mountain. Purchase of Bullhead, in order to maintain it in an undeveloped state, would give the Conservation Trust for North Carolina and Blue Ridge Rural Land Trust a great deal of positive local press and goodwill. The Bullhead Mountain Project has more potential to involve the residents of the two counties in Parkway and conservation issues than any such issue of which I am aware. Conversely, the loss of the ridgeline of Bullhead to development would cause a widespread feeling of loss among local residents.

Appraisal of the Stokes tract was completed in November 1998 by Underdown and Associates of Elkin, N.C., showing fair market value of the Stokes tract to be \$549,250.00. Mrs. Stokes has committed to make a bargain sale of her property to the Conservation Trust for North Carolina, donating one-third of its value, if the land is to remain in its undeveloped state and held for educational and recreational uses. Mrs. Stokes has further given the Conservation Trust for North Carolina sufficient time to raise the funds needed to make this purchase. Lawrence has recently committed to sell the critical portion of his acreage to the Conservation Trust for \$66,200, a figure that is 20% under current tax value. The improvements needed to make the site usable by the ornithological community are minimal, being a gravel parking lot, gate, wooden observation deck, privy, and road maintenance. Other costs of this acquisition will be the needed survey and legal work, fundraising, and stewardship costs. We anticipate that the cost of the Bullhead Mountain Project to be approximately \$500,000.00.

The Project Budget for Bullhead Mountain Project is as follows:

Stokes Tract Acquisition:	\$366,350
Lawrence Acquisition:	66,230
Survey:	6,920
Legal:	5,000
Fundraising Costs:	35,000
Gravel Parking Lot and Road Work:	5,000

Wooden Observation Deck and Privy	4,000
Liability Policy:	1,500
Stewardship Fund:	10,000
Total:	\$500,000

In order to raise these funds, the Conservation Trust for North Carolina and Blue Ridge Rural Land Trust have assembled a Bullhead Campaign Team of highly respected and capable citizens of Alleghany and Wilkes Counties. These are: Genia George, Lou Morrison, John and Rita Woodruff, Chatham Olive, Jule Hubbard, Tom Smith and Dr. Beth Lyon-Smith, Margaret Motsinger, Andy Huber, Katherine Higgins, Mary Sue Johnson, Kathy Barringer, and Sandy Carter. They will be assisted by James Coman of Blue Ridge Rural Land Trust and Margaret Newbold of The Conservation Trust for North Carolina. This Team has been chosen because of its enthusiasm for the Project and knowledge of and contacts with a broad spectrum of possible stakeholders in the Bullhead Project. This Team will be assisted by the staff of the two land trusts in soliciting individuals and corporations in the area and regionally for tax-deductible contributions towards the purchase of these tracts, and staff will prepare the necessary grant applications to several regional foundations.

James Coman
Executive Director
Blue Ridge Rural Land Trust

Sale of Property (continued)

May of that year, the CBC Executive Committee decided to let the club's membership decide the matter in last spring's referendum.

Sale of the property with the easement in place meant CBC gave up a large potential financial gain. The sale price was probably a fourth or less of market value of the land without the restrictions of the conservation easement. But in addition to guaranteeing the land will remain undeveloped, the easement-and-sale disposition relieved CBC of the responsibility of managing land that the club made no use of. The club spent more than \$1,000 in 1999 for insurance and mowing fees.

Anyone wishing to discuss the matter or seek further information is welcome to contact CBC President **Len Pardue** (828/254-7618; email eljeep@mindspring.com).

Barber Resigns (continued)

vicepresident (incumbent Andrea Ceselski of Irmo cannot succeed herself).

To two-year terms, members-at-large from South Carolina and from Western and Eastern North Carolina. Incumbents Van Atkins of Charleston and John Huggins of Pisgah Forest cannot succeed themselves. The third position is the one Lynn Barber vacated.

The Executive Committee meets four

times yearly. Duties include overseeing club publications and business operations, and planning meetings and field trips. People who love birding (particularly the fellowship it provides), can attend meetings and are dedicated to the club's welfare make good board members. You need not be an ace birder to serve on the board.

The Nominating Committee consists of Lex Gower of Lugoff, S.C.; Judy Walker of Charlotte, N.C., and John Fussell of Morehead City, N.C.

Members interested in serving on the Executive Committee or in recommending candidates should contact the Nominating Committee or any member of the Executive Committee. -- **Len Pardue**, CBC President

Head for the Mountains!

Springtime in the Blue Ridge Mountains, with an abundance of color and song, great field trips and good fellowship, should make this a memorable experience for all who head for the mountains and the CBC Spring Meeting in Blowing Rock, NC, May 5-7, 2000. Blowing Rock is within two hours of Greensboro, Charlotte and Asheville, NC, and our motel is located just minutes from the Blue Ridge Parkway.

For non-birding spouses and friends, the mountains are a marvelous place to relax and take a stroll, enjoy the wildflowers, shop for local crafts, visit historic sites, or gasp at the beauty of Linville Gorge.

For birders, the mountains in spring are terrific and afford great birding opportunities for everyone, whether you prefer car-birding, short easy walks or strenuous hikes. The carriage trails in Moses H. Cone Park are perfect for easy as well as moderate walks, and warblers galore should be there. The easy 2.3 mile loop trail around Price Lake in Julian Price Memorial Park offers good looks at waterfowl and maybe Common Loons. Grandfather Mountain is legendary for hiking, wildflowers and birding, and May 6 is Bird Day at Grandfather. Another highlight of the meeting will be a trip led by Dwayne and Lori Martin to some private property with great birds.

Specific field trip descriptions and a

field trip registration form, as well as information on campgrounds, will be included in the March/April Newsletter.

Few if any people know the birds of the Blue Ridge as well as Marcus Simpson, author of *Birds of the Blue Ridge Mountains*, the featured speaker on Saturday evening. Dr. Simpson has agreed to do a book signing, so be sure to bring along your copy of his book. If you don't already own one, you can purchase this well-written and user-friendly classic, as well as other useful bird-related books, at the meeting.

The Northern Saw-whet Owl, pictured on the cover of Dr. Simpson's book, is one of Dr. Matthew Rowe's specialties. Dr. Rowe is Professor of Biology at Appalachian State University. He will address the meeting Friday evening on the subject of extinction. As we delight in the miracle of migration, we need to be mindful of the fragility of life and aware of the roles we play in nature. After Dr. Rowe's talk, his graduate students will lead an owl prowling for us.

The motel, Days Inn Mountain Resort, is located in Blowing Rock at US 321 Bypass and Ransome Street, near the Outback restaurant. It has an indoor pool and hottub. At press time it was unclear if the motel's restaurant will be open; however, there are lots of restaurants nearby. The special CBC room rate of

\$65.50 plus tax for a room with two double beds applies to Friday and Saturday nights only. A third person in the room is \$5 extra. Please note that the motel will not accept personal checks for payment after 30 days before arrival. Payment at check-out must be by credit card or business check. At press time there were only four rooms available for the preceding Thursday, but the motel said that some more might become available. If you wish to arrive before Friday, either check with the motel and inquire about availability and cost, or get a motel room in one of the larger towns a few hours from Blowing Rock for Thursday night. The situation is the same for Sunday night following the meeting. The special rate is guaranteed only until April 1, so be sure to make your reservations as soon as possible (see reservation form and additional information elsewhere in this issue of the Newsletter). Reservations may be made by credit card by calling (828) 295-4422.

Blowing Rock is a resort area, so accommodations are expensive and meeting rooms rare. Our evening meetings will be held at Blowing Rock School, about half a mile from the motel.

Hope to see you in Blowing Rock!

Charlotte Goedsche, WNC V-Pres.
goedschejanes@mindspring.com

Lake Mattamuskeet Field Trip Report

by Brad Carlson

On Saturday, November 20, 1999, I led the Carolina Bird Club's fall field trip to Lake Mattamuskeet NWR. We had a great group with 16 participants from all over North Carolina, and we even had one from Miami, Florida.

We were a little nervous at the start of the day because of sporadic light rain, but

the weather turned nice, and we birded in T-shirts for the afternoon.

We birded the wildlife trail, causeway and a small portion of the Lake Landing impoundments. Although we were unable to locate any hyper rarities, we did have a nice rounded-out checklist with 83 species.

Highlights included the following: We

observed 15+ Bald Eagles, of which at least five were adults. Rarely was there a point in the day that we did not have between one and three eagles in sight at the same time. We also watched a pair of young eagles attacking a flock of coots on the lake. Each eagle ended up plucking a

(continued on next page)

Membership Application and Order Form

Name _____ Address _____
(List individual member first then any associate members.)

City _____ State _____ Zip _____ Tel.. () _____ () _____
(home) (business)

E-mail address _____

Enter/Renew Membership As Indicated:

____ Individual (and non-profits) (\$20)
____ Associate (in household w/ind) (\$5)
____ Student (\$15)
____ Sustaining (and businesses) (\$25)

Send Materials Indicated:

____ Patron (\$50 up)
____ Life (\$400)
(4 installments of \$100)
____ CBC Cloth arm patch \$2.00 ea.
____ CBC Decals (vinyl stick-on) \$2.00 ea., \$1.75 ea. in
quantity
____ Checklists 10/\$1.75, 25/\$5, 50/\$9.50, 75/\$12.75,
100/\$16

Make check payable to Carolina Bird Club, Inc. and mail to 11 W. Jones St., Raleigh, NC 27601-1029

Motel Reservation Form

Carolina Bird Club Spring Meeting, May 5-7, 2000

Name(s) _____

Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Please reserve a ____ non-smoking ____ smoking room for ____ occupants at the Carolina Bird Club meeting rate of \$65.50 plus tax.
Arrival _____ Departure _____ My check for the first night's lodging is enclosed. (Note: A third person in the room is \$5 extra. Personal checks will not be accepted after 30 days before arrival. Payment at check-out must be by credit card or business check. Reservation deadline is April 1.)

Mail with deposit to Days Inn Mountain Resort, P.O. Box 2307, Blowing Rock, NC 28605 or call (828) 295-4422

Lake Mattamuskeet (continued)

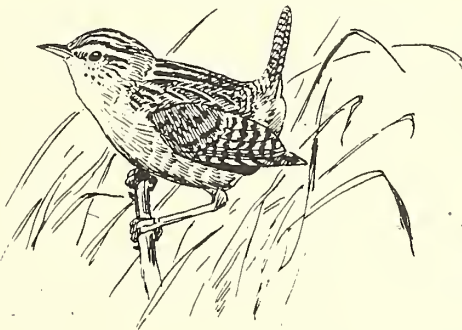
coot off the lake and carrying it off into the distance. Within 100 feet of this activity was a Great Black-backed Gull also making lunch of coot. Safety in numbers does not apply to everyone!

One of our participants was able to spot a Mute Swan among the Tundra Swans on the wildlife drive. This made for a nice comparison and added a species to the life lists of many individuals.

We had great looks at numerous waterfowl including a close-up male Lesser Scaup and two pairs of Redheads. We also observed an enormous flock of Snow Geese and "Blue" Geese. This was the largest number of blue phase Snow Geese I have ever seen (easily in the thousands).

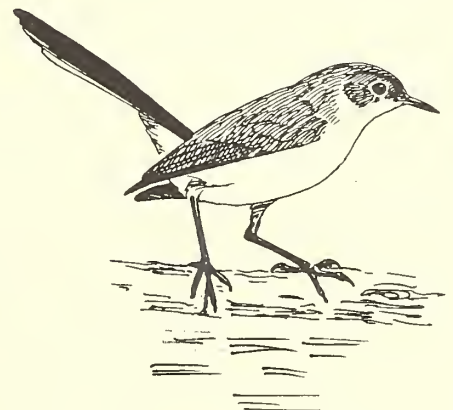
We had quick but close looks at a King Rail that we flushed in one of the

impoundments, and we heard three or four more at another impoundment.



Some of the group had great close-up looks at three or four Sedge Wrens, while others just caught glimpses of these "sklulers" as they popped up and dove back into the marshes.

We had numerous Palm Warblers throughout the day, but did not find any large passerine flocks. At the end of the day we did observe a Blue-gray Gnatcatcher and a Prairie Warbler. Other fall species still lingering around included good numbers of Cattle Egrets, Forster's Terns and Laughing Gulls.



Carolina Bird Club, Inc.



11 W. Jones St., Raleigh, NC 27601-1029

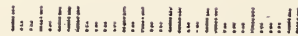
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Joan Ferguson & Don Anthony
Carrboro, NC

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Center
Tryon, NC

John & Linda Hanners
Merritt, NC

Edward & Ruth Kerl
New Bern, NC

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Mark & Debi Warner
Greenville, NC

Life Members

Charlotte Goedeche &
Cynthia Janes
Asheville, NC